

County May Turn Down Sorenson Property Gift

10-18-89

James Sorenson has offered to donate 106 acres, for Route A right-of-way, to Wasatch County. The new highway, opened three weeks ago, connects Heber City with Kamas.

However, the County Commission may turn down the gift. On Monday they told Clyde Smith, representing Sorenson, that they would probably announce a decision during next Monday's Commission meeting, after they study

the offer, whatever strings may be attached, how the gift could influence certain other situations, and get some legal opinions from the County Attorney, Steve Hansen. Smith insisted there are no

strings attached to the gift whatsoever. But Sorenson has been paying greenbelt taxes on the property, based on about 20 percent of its actual assessed value, Jeff Bradshaw, County Clerk, explained. He said when greenbelt property changes hands, taxes for the past five years must be paid to make up the difference between what was paid and what would have been paid based on assessed value.

The Commissioners said whether the County or Sorenson pays the taxes due on the property must be determined. No one could estimate the amount, but Smith said the property had qualified for greenbelt tax benefits for no more than two

years. No other "strings" were specifically discussed.

However, whether or not Sorenson is asking for any concessions in return for the property is not the real issue. What the Commissioners are concerned about is how accepting the property could effect another case involving Sorenson, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

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ask them to donate property for the road, since it would increase their property values. However, including responded to the request, including Sorenson. In order to get possible, Sorenson. In order to get possible, Hansen then asked each owner to sign a Right of Entry, which would allow access to the right-of-way, and which everyone agreed to. Farrell said Sorenson asked for seven or eight concessions allowing the for his signature allowing the Entry to his property, including the

County interpreted "exchange" as "exchanging" and were not connected to the value of the land. He said Sorenson only asked that damage to the haul be repaired, like removing jeep trails, roads and restoring. which Farrell confirmed. Farrell said the County then appraised the properties and offered Sorenson \$23,000, but he didn't report any discussion or negotiation of the price with Sorenson.

point would have been acceptable, I but nothing clicked in my mind. I rubbed my hands across my "writer's block," but received nothing more than a few slivers. I even went so far as to ask other people for suggestions, but I was being so onery at this point that no one would even respond. I Now, amazing as it may be, this put the finishing touches on the column, I see that the weather is starting to clear. There's a patch of blue sky overhead, the sun is longer at gale force, the sun is peaking through, I've lost another pound, and the fire has died in the basement

Heaven's no! I just couldn't get up enough get up and go to get up and get anything done. For starters, the weather was icky. It was windy and rainy and overcast. Now, blustery days usually don't get me down, but when it's the middle of August and it's blustery enough to have a fire in the middle of August, it can be nothing but depressing. A season for fires in August of winter; a season for harbingers of winter; and we but harbingers of winter; and we for which I am not ready, and we had the harbingers in the fireplace in the basement, anything that I could

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speeding, drinking, and other unsafe activities.

This was sorely brought home two weeks ago during Wednesday coming activities. The similar before our Homecoming, in *The Wave*. The Saturday after Homecoming, I read in *The Deseret News* about an accident that occurred during celebration at a "high Homecoming, a car traveling at a three rate of speed" crashed killing three teenaged boys. It made me appreciate the effort in our

Secondly, anything that I could